

HADHRAT SAYYEDAH

KHADIJAH

(May Allah be pleased with her)

Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry

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NOTE

The Muslim readers are urged to say, “May Allah be pleased with him or her”, whenever the name of any Companion of the Holy Prophet Muhammad appears in the text and “May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him,” whenever the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad appears in the text.

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

INTRODUCTION

The booklet ‘Hadhrat Sayyedah Khadijah’ is another addition to the series of books published by the Children’s Book Committee. The booklet deals with the life history of Ummul Mo’mineen Hadhrat Sayyedah Khadijah, may Allah be pleased with her. She is the ideal of womanhood in Islam.

She was the first person to believe in the mission of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and readily gave all her belongings in the cause of Allah. She was married to the Holy Prophet, but she was much more than a wife. She was the most capable advisor and the best companion of the Holy Prophet. She was a great solace to the Holy Prophet when the whole of Makkah turned against him and the opponents tried their utmost to wipe out Islam from the face of the earth.

The Children’s Book Committee is working under the guidance and instructions of Hadhrat Khalifat-ul-Masih IV. May Allah bless its members for their dedication and hard work and reward them abundantly in this world and the Hereafter.

A glossary of difficult words and expressions is also provided at the end.

We hope that parents and children will welcome this publication.

Munir-ud-Din Shams,
Additional Vakil-ut-Tasneef,
London.

TRANSLITERATION NOTE

All long vowel sounds are denoted by two vowels for example:

aa- as in Taahirah, Taalib, Uthmaan.

ee- as in Jibraa'eel.

oo- as in Hajoon.

SALUTATORY ABBREVIATIONS

Saw - Sallallaahu alaihi wa sallam – may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him - whenever the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} is mentioned.

as - Alaihis-salaam – Peace be upon him – whenever the name of any other Prophet is mentioned.

ra - Radhiy-allahu- anhu – May Allah be pleased with him- whenever the name of a Companion of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} is mentioned, if the Companion is a male person..

OR

ra - Radhiy-allahu- anhhaa – May Allah be pleased with her whenever the name of a Companion of the Holy Prophet is mentioned, if the Companion is a female person.

HADHRAT SAYYEDAH KHADIJAH

(May Allah be pleased with Her)

Ummul-Mo'mineen Hadhrat Sayyedah Khadijah^{ra}, the first wife of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, belonged to the noble family of Quraish. Her father's name was Khuwailid and her mother's name was Faatimah. Khadijah was born in 555 AD. Thus she was fifteen years older than the Holy Prophet^{saw}. Her father was a well-known chief of Makkah. He was a successful merchant who traded in oils, linen, perfumes and other rare merchandise. He lived in a two-storey house beside a hillock not far from the Ka'bah.

From her childhood Hadhrat Khadijah possessed noble qualities. She grew up into a pious, quiet and intelligent young woman. Due to her moral virtues the people of Makkah had conferred on her the title "Taahirah", which means the 'Pure', or the 'Virtuous'. She had a tender and compassionate heart. She was generous with her money and used to help the poor, the needy, the orphans and the widows.

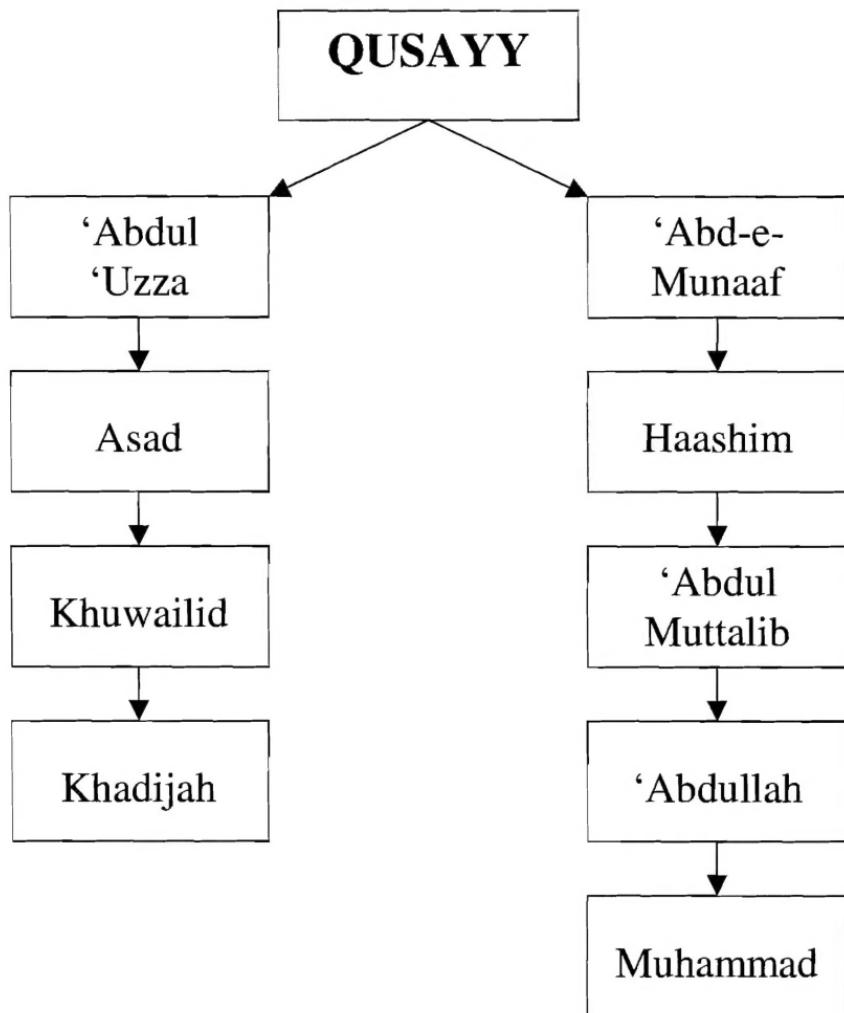
It is related that on one occasion Haleemah^{ra} of Banu Sa'd tribe, the woman who nursed Muhammad in his childhood, came to see him after his marriage to Khadijah. Muhammad had spent five years with Banu Sa'd tribe and retained a grateful impression of the

kindness, he had experienced as a child among that tribe.

He therefore showed great regard for Haleemah^{ra} when she came. He had often spoken fondly of her to Khadijah^{ra}. Khadijah^{ra} was also delighted to see her. It was a year of drought and the crops, trees and even the wild plants died for lack of water. The animals were reduced to skeletons and many died because of hunger. There was shortage of food in the country and the people were worried. Haleemah^{ra} stayed with the family of the Holy Prophet for some time. When she decided to go back to her people, Khadijah^{ra} gave her a she-camel and forty sheep.

Haleemah^{ra} and her family were ever so grateful for that generosity.

FAMILY BACKGROUND



If one traces back the family tree of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and that of Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}, one will find that Qusayy was their common ancestor. Qusayy lived about a century and a half before the birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

Khuwailid, father of Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}, was the great grandson of Qusayy, while Abdul Muttallib, the grandfather of the Holy Prophet^{saw}, was also the great grandson of Qusayy.

These two families had other links as well. The maternal grandmother of Aaminah, the mother of the Holy Prophet^{saw}, was a sister of Khuwailid. Moreover Safiyah^{ra}, an aunt of the Holy Prophet^{saw}, was married to 'Awwaam, brother of Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}.

Qusayy was a man of remarkable character and intelligence. He brought together the disunited clans of the Quraish. In his days, Makkah was a small town. There were no permanent houses. People used to live in tents. Qusayy persuaded the Quraish to build houses around the Ka'bah leaving enough space for the pilgrims to walk around the ancient building of the Ka'bah. Qusayy is thus regarded as the founder of the city of Makkah. He allotted specific duties to each clan of the Quraish tribe in connection with the service of the Ka'bah, the regulations of the pilgrimage, and the administration of the city. He erected a building right opposite the Ka'bah, called

Daar-un-Nadwah, or House of Consultation, where leaders of the Quraish used to gather for consultation in matters of importance and where tribal policies were discussed in public. Qusayy thus founded a democratic form of Government in Makkah as well as in the surrounding areas.

The House of Consultation was also used for social gatherings. The people of Makkah used to perform their marriage ceremonies in this building.

In the sixth century, the Quraish tribe began to play a leading role in trade with the neighbouring countries. Their trade caravans travelled as far as Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Iraq and Persia in the north and to The Yemen and Abyssinia in the south. There was also a certain amount of trade with India and China. The Arab traders used to supply luxury items like pearls, ivory, diamonds, silks, weapons, dyes and pepper.

From the seaports of Aden and Mocha, the bales of goods were taken from the ships and loaded on camels. Sometimes the caravan consisted of one thousand camels, which made the long journey from the seaports to Makkah and then to Damascus in Syria and beyond.

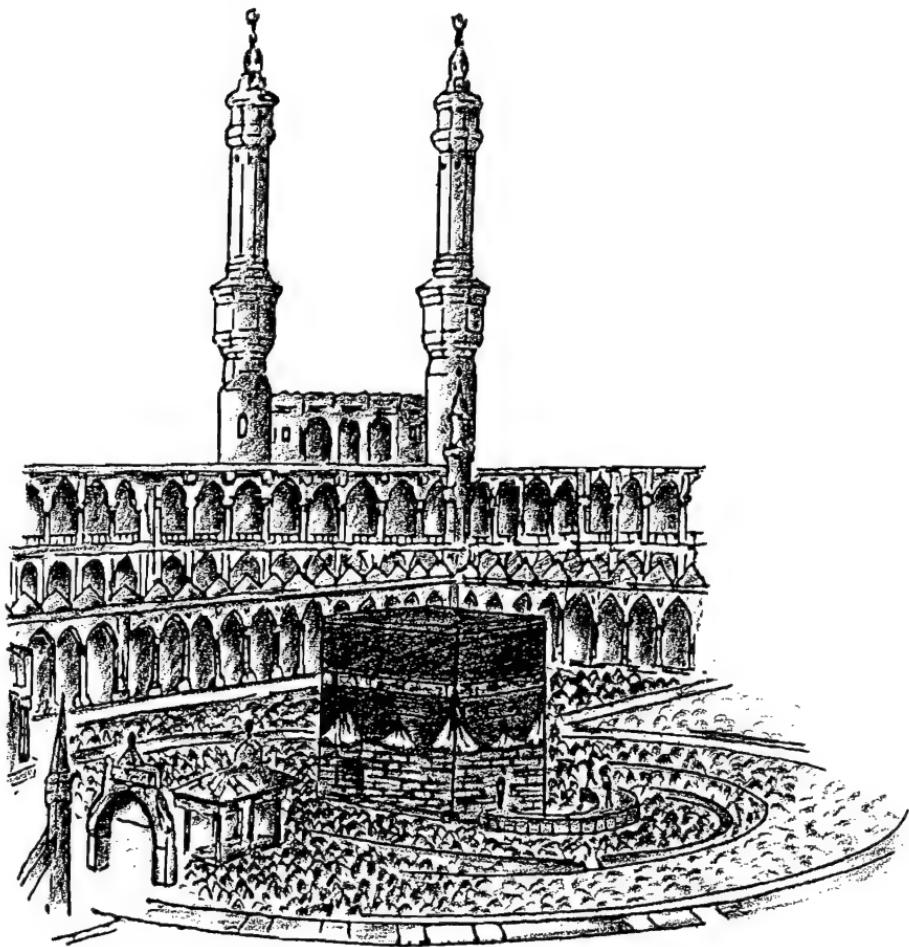
Makkah was prosperous because of the profits derived from the trade and because of the sanctity of the Ka‘bah, the House of Allah, which had been a centre of pilgrimage for ages. The religious rites of the

pilgrimage lasted only three days but a series of fairs were held at various sites in the neighbourhood during the preceding weeks where the Qur'aish sold the articles brought by their caravans.

As a settled community, Makkah attracted various types of individuals, other than those belonging to the Qur'aish tribe. They were artisans, slaves, domestic servants, carpenters, sword makers, weavers and leather workers. Guards were also employed for the safe journey of the caravans.

Thus Makkah was no longer restricted to one tribe. Instead it gradually emerged as an urban society.

THE KA'BAH



HADHRAT KHADIJAH'S EARLIER MARRIAGES

When Khadijah grew up, her father gave her hand in marriage to Abu Haallah, son of Zaraarah. Abu Haallah was a merchant. They lived happily. God blessed them with a son named Hind and a daughter called Zainab. According to some historians, Abu Haallah had three sons, Haallah, Hind and Haarith. A few years later Abu Haallah became ill and died. Khadijah cried with grief at the loss of her husband. Later her father chose 'Ateeq, son of 'Aaiz, a rich trader, as her husband. They were leading a happy life but when 'Ateeq went on a business expedition to Syria; he died on the way back. Khadijah became a widow for the second time. She had one son and one daughter from this marriage.

After the death of her second husband, several respected and influential men of the Quraish tried to seek her hand in marriage but she rejected their offers. She resolved that she would not marry again and decided to live an independent life.

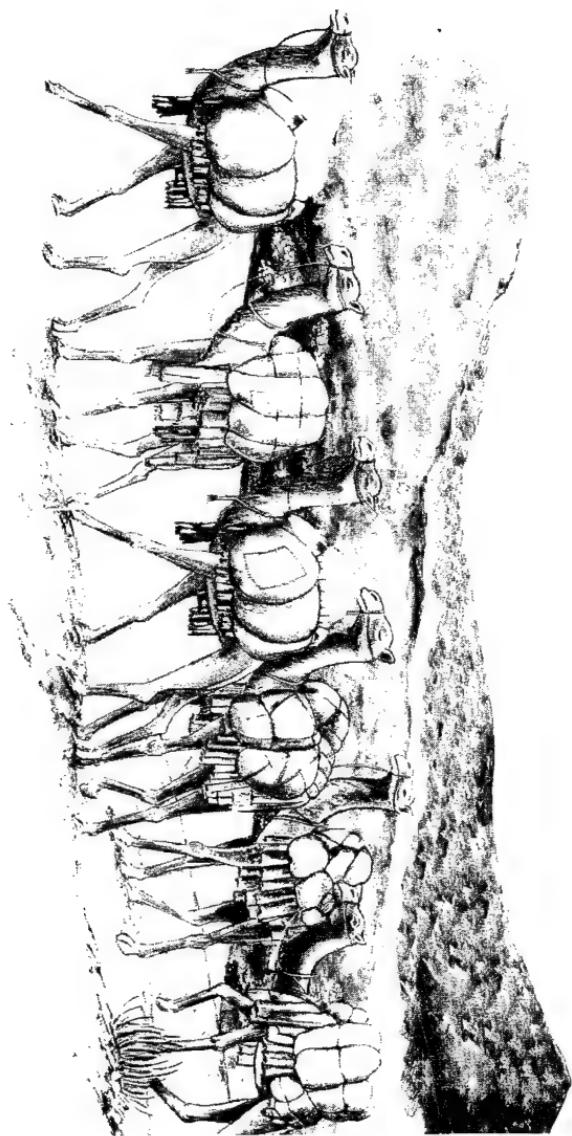
It so happened that shortly after the death of her second husband, her father also passed away. This was a great loss to Khadijah, as she had to look after the business herself. It was indeed a difficult time for her.

BUSINESS EXPEDITIONS

In order to run the business successfully, Khadijah employed trade agents, who used to carry merchandise to other countries and bring back useful items to be sold in Makkah. She worked hard and soon she was regarded as an intelligent merchant woman of great dignity and wealth.

At that time Muhammad was a young boy. His father had died before his birth and his mother died when he was six years old. After the death of his mother he went into the care of his grandfather Abdul Muttalib. Abdul Muttalib was eighty years old at that time. He was very fond of his grandson. He did not live long and died at the age of eighty-two. After his death, Abu Taalib, an uncle of Muhammad, became his guardian. Abu Taalib had many noble qualities and was a respected Quraish leader. He loved his nephew dearly. Muhammad, too, loved his uncle very much. It was during this period that Abu Taalib undertook a journey to Syria along with a trade caravan. He intended to leave his nephew behind for he was twelve years old at that time and could take care of himself. But when the caravan was about to depart,

Trade caravan



Muhammad clung to his uncle and insisted on going with him. Abu Taalib was moved and decided to take him along with the caravan. This was Muhammad's first journey to a foreign land.

A strange incident happened during this journey. It is related that when the caravan reached Bosraa, it camped near a monastery where a great scholar of Scriptures lived. His name was Baheerah. Monk Baheerah noticed many things in the appearance of Muhammad, which fitted the description of the Prophet that people were waiting for. He said to Abu Taalib to take good care of the young man and protect him from the mischief of the People of the Book. He told Abu Taalib that according to the Scriptures this boy seemed to be the person whom God would choose to play a great part in the world.

It should be noted that the town Bosraa was situated on the road to Damascus in southern Syria and was about eighty miles south of Damascus. It was a beautiful town with many Roman buildings and was a meeting place of five caravan routes. The town Bosraa should not be confused with the famous city of Basrah, which is situated in Iraq.

Muhammad grew up into a handsome man with very good manners and extraordinary qualities of honesty and piety. People called him, "Al-Ameen" meaning

the ‘trustworthy’, and “Al-Saadiq” meaning the ‘truthful’. Whoever came in contact with him was deeply impressed by his personality and intelligence. He was gentle and obedient to his elders, affectionate to his companions and full of compassion for those who stood in need of help. He helped his aunt with the household tasks and outside he assisted his uncle by carrying out any job that was assigned to him.

Khadijah had heard of the honesty, piety, trustworthiness and high moral character of Muhammad. She was greatly impressed by his integrity. She therefore approached Muhammad’s uncle Abu Taalib with the suggestion that he should let his nephew lead a trading caravan of hers to Syria. Abu Taalib mentioned this to Muhammad, to which he agreed. Khadijah offered to pay him double the amount she paid to others. When the caravan started its journey, Khadijah sent her trusted servant Maisarah along with the caravan. The caravan took the usual route to Syria, which Muhammad had undertaken with his uncle thirteen years before.

Muhammad conducted the business in such a manner and discharged his duties so well that the expedition met with great success. It was his honesty and intelligent handling of affairs that he made unexpected profit. Maisarah was much impressed by the honesty with which the young leader of the caravan had

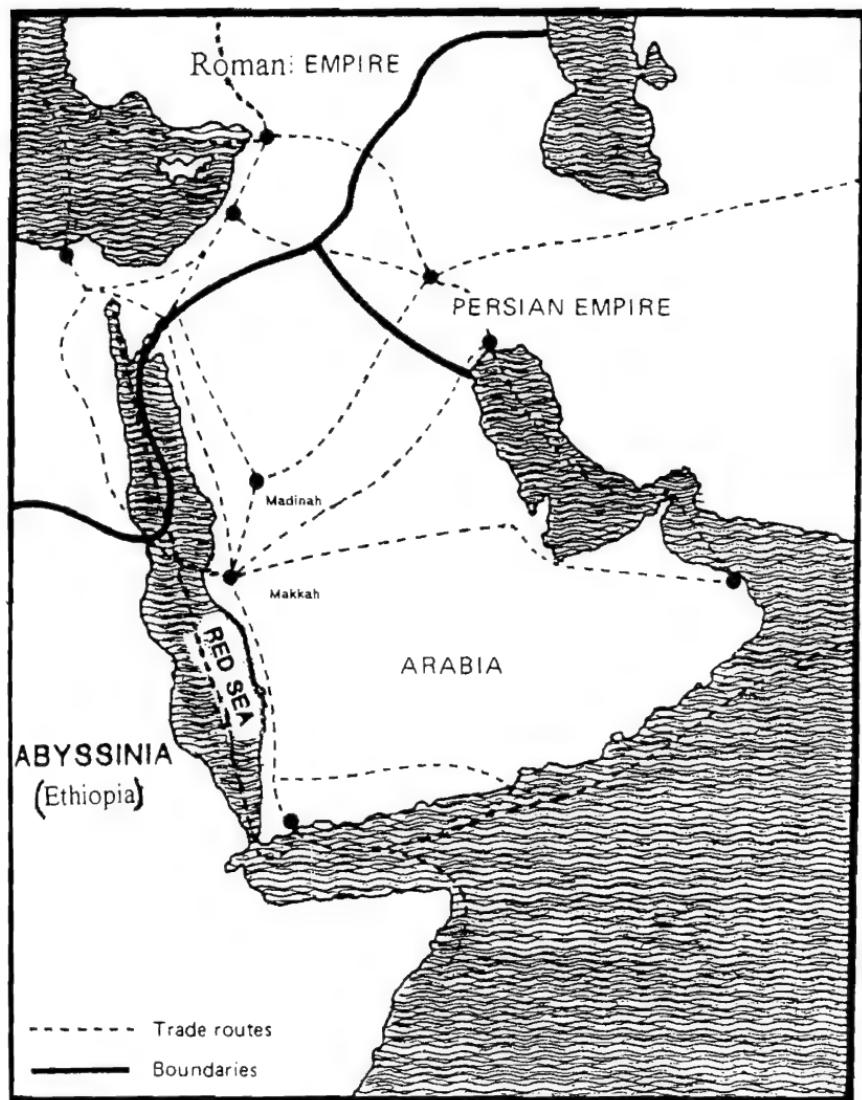
managed the transactions. He was also impressed by an incident, which happened during the journey. He noticed that when the caravan was camped near a monastery, a Nestorian monk, by the name of Jordis, saw the young leader of the caravan sitting under a tree. He inquired from Maisarah about Muhammad. Maisarah replied that Muhammad belonged to the Quraish tribe of Makkah. The monk exclaimed that he seemed to be the Prophet of God, whose advent had been told in the Scriptures and made the same kind of recommendations as Monk Baheerah had made to Abu Taalib.

On the way back when the caravan reached near the town of Makkah, Maisarah persuaded his leader Muhammad to go ahead and break the news of the success of the journey to Khadijah.

Khadijah was waiting for the return of the caravan very eagerly. She used to go to the top of her house from where she could see the road to Syria. One day, surrounded by her friends and servants, she was sitting in the upper storey of her house when she saw a camel advancing rapidly towards the town. She knew that the rider would be Muhammad. When she was told about the huge profit in business, she was thrilled and was much impressed by his business skills and capabilities. She was convinced that the success in business was due not only to the condition of the

market in Syria but also to the integrity and efficiency of the caravan leader Muhammad. Her servant Maisarah was full of praise for him. He also mentioned to her what the Nestorian monk had said about him. All this created a deep impression on Hadhrat Khadijah's mind.

Trade Routes



KHADIJAH MARRIES AGAIN

Khadijah was now forty years old. She was convinced of the noble qualities and refined manners of Muhammad. He was twenty-five years old. Khadijah wanted to make him a proposal for marriage. She sought the opinion of her best friend Nafeesah, who approved of the idea and offered her help. One day Nafeesah went to Muhammad and during the conversation asked him why he had not married.

Muhammad replied that he was not rich enough to do so. Nafeesah asked him whether he would be willing to marry a respectable rich woman.

Muhammad asked, "Who is that woman?"

Nafeesah told him about Khadijah.

Muhammad apologised and said, "How can that be possible? Khadijah is too highly placed for me. She is a wealthy woman and I am a poor person."

Nafeesah said, "Let me take care of that."

Muhammad remarked, "In that case I have nothing to say but to agree."

When Nafeesah told Khadijah the result of her talk with Muhammad, she sent him an offer of marriage. The offer was made to Muhammad through his uncle Abu Taalib. Muhammad consulted Abu Taalib, who advised him to accept the offer. As Hadhrat

Khadijah's father had died earlier, Abu Taalib called on Hadhrat Khadijah's uncle 'Amr bin Asad, and asked for the hand of his niece in marriage to Muhammad. 'Amr bin Asad, being her Wali, gave his consent for the marriage. Thus the marriage between Muhammad and Khadijah was settled. The marriage ceremony was solemnised by Abu Taalib and the Haq Mahr was fixed at five hundred dirhams.

Khadijah arranged a big feast and invited relatives and friends of both families. The bride and the bridegroom passed their first night in the house of Abu Taalib, and then Khadijah returned to her house together with her husband. The bridegroom arranged the Waleemah dinner.

The marriage brought domestic contentment and happiness to both. The couple was blessed with children. The first-born was a son. They named him Qaasim. According to Arab custom, Muhammad became known as 'Abul Qaasim', which means the father of Qaasim. They had another son whom they named Abdullah. He was also known as Tayyab and Taahir. Some historians, however, say that Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, had three sons from Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}. They mention their names as Qaasim^{ra}, Taahir^{ra} and Tayyab^{ra}. The blessed couple had four daughters, Zainab^{ra}, Ruqayyah^{ra}, Umm-e-Kulsoom^{ra} and Faatimah^{ra}. All his sons died in their childhood while

all daughters grew up and accepted Islam but they did not live very long. Only Hadhrat Faatimah, may Allah be pleased with her, survived the Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and lived about six months after the demise of the Holy Prophet^{saw}.

It should be noted that the Holy Prophet^{saw} had all his children from his wife Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}, except one boy Ibrraheem^{ra}, who was from Hadhrat Maariah Qibtiyah^{ra}. Ibrraheem^{ra} died when he was about eighteen months old.

Salmah acted as midwife on the birth of Hadhrat Khadijah's children. She was a domestic servant of Hadhrat Safiyah^{ra}, an aunt of the Holy Prophet^{saw}.

It is related that one goat was slaughtered as a sacrifice at the birth of each daughter, while two goats were slaughtered at the birth of each son.

After Muhammad's marriage to Khadijah, Abu Taalib was deprived of the helping hand of his nephew Muhammad to earn a livelihood for his family. Muhammad's youngest uncle 'Abbaas was well off. Muhammad therefore suggested to his uncle 'Abbaas that they should lessen Abu Taalib's burden by taking care of two of his children at least. 'Abbaas agreed and both went to Abu Taalib with a proposal. It was decided that Muhammad would take care of 'Ali and 'Abbaas would take charge of Ja'far. 'Ali

was about six years old at that time. Khadijah welcomed 'Ali in her house and he remained with the family and grew very attached to Khadijah^{ra} and Muhammad^{saw}.

Hadhrat 'Ali^{ra} has also the honour of being the son-in-law of the Holy Prophet^{saw}.

Muhammad admitted another person into his family. His name was Zaid, son of Haarithah. Zaid belonged to a noble family, which lived in the south of Syria. He was an intelligent boy. Zaid was kidnapped in a tribal raid and was sold from one person to another until he reached the hands of Hakeem bin Hizaam, a nephew of Khadijah. Hakeem offered Zaid to his aunt shortly after her marriage to Muhammad. Zaid was then about twenty years of age. He was small in stature and dark in complexion. He proved to be a very faithful servant. Khadijah and Muhammad developed a deep affection for him.

Muhammad was a loving and affectionate husband who showed great regard and consideration for his wife. She, on her part, proved to be a constant source of comfort to her husband. Soon after the marriage, Khadijah proposed to hand over all her wealth, as well as her slaves, to her husband. Muhammad, after making sure, that Khadijah was sincere in doing so, declared that he would distribute the wealth among the poor and the needy and would set free all slaves.

He therefore distributed most of the wealth; he received from his wife, among the poor and set all slaves free including Zaid. Zaid, however, refused to be freed and begged his master to let him continue to live with him.

It so happened that the father and an uncle of Zaid traced him to Makkah. They tried to persuade him to return home but failed. Zaid remained firm in his decision not to leave his gracious master, though he sent a loving message to his mother.

When the Holy Prophet saw his devotion, he took him to the Ka'bah and in the presence of his father and uncle declared that Zaid would henceforth be treated as his son.

Hadhrat Zaid's father was satisfied with the situation and returned home glad at heart.

Zaid^{ra} remained loyal to the Holy Prophet and lived with the family for a long time.

KHADIJAH, THE FIRST PERSON TO ACCEPT ISLAM..

Muhammad was now over thirty years of age. Love of God began to possess him more and more. He began to devote most of his time to prayers and meditation. In those days Arab society had become extremely corrupt. People used to worship idols. It is said that there were three hundred and sixty idols placed in and around the Ka'bah. The monotheistic religion of their great ancestor, Prophet Ibraaheem, may peace be upon him, was largely forgotten. Arabs used to indulge in many vices like adultery, drinking, gambling, plunder, murder and many other illicit practices. Muhammad was deeply hurt to see the mischievous deeds of the people of Makkah and the moral and spiritual decline into which the people had fallen. There was no way of rescuing them except through Divine guidance and help. He, therefore, chose a place of solitude and retreat in the Cave of Hira, about three miles outside the city. This was on top of a hill, a sort of cave, shaped out of stone. He used to go there alone or sometimes with Khadijah and spend several days and nights in meditation. Khadijah used to prepare enough food for him to last for several days so that he could worship God day and night.

When Muhammad was forty years old, he saw a vision. It was on a Monday in the last ten days of the month of Ramadhaan. As he was engaged in worship, he saw someone present in the cave. It was the angel Jibraa'eel, who commanded him to recite. Muhammad replied that he did not know what or how to recite. Thereupon, the angel clasped him to its bosom and squeezed him hard. Jibraa'eel then released him and directed him again to recite. Muhammad gave him the same reply. The angel squeezed him for the second time and asked him to recite. Again Muhammad gave the same answer. After the third embrace the angel released Muhammad and directed,

“Recite in the name of your Lord Who created, created man from a sticky clot. Recite, and your Lord is the Noblest, Who taught by the pen, taught man what he knew not”. (Ch: 96: 2-6)

These verses, the first ever revealed to the Holy Prophet^{saw}, became part of the Holy Quran, as did other verses, which were revealed later.

Muhammad^{saw} repeated the words as commanded. The angel then disappeared. Muhammad^{saw} was full of anxiety because of the responsibility that Allah was about to place on him. He went home immediately and said to Khadijah, “Wrap me up. Wrap me up with something.”

After a while when his anxiety had somewhat subsided he related the whole incident to her and summed up his fears, saying, "Weak man that I am, how can I carry the responsibility which Allah proposes to put on my shoulders."

Khadijah replied, "God is witness, He has not sent you this Word that you should fail and prove unworthy, that He should then give you up. How can God do such a thing to you? You are kind and considerate to your relations. You help the poor and bear their burden. You try to restore the virtues that have disappeared from society. You honour guests and help those who are in difficulty. Can you be subjected by God to any trial?"

She then suggested that they should go to her cousin Waraqah bin Naufal, a Christian hermit, and consult him. Waraqah was an old man. He was an expert in Hebrew language and had very good knowledge of the Scriptures. When Waraqah heard the details of the incident, he said, "I am sure the angel, who used to descend on Moses, had descended on you. I wish I would be alive to give you my support when your people will turn you out of your homeland."

"Will they indeed expel me?" the Holy Prophet asked in great surprise.

The Christian hermit said, "There has been no Messenger who has not been opposed by his people. If I survive till that time, I shall help you with all my

strength.” However Waraqah was unable to witness those days as he lived only a short time thereafter.

Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} was the first person to believe in the Holy Prophet^{saw}. She had witnessed his purity and greatness in his youth and had spent fifteen years in his company. She, therefore, accepted him without any hesitation. She was very fortunate, as Islam, the religion of peace, started in her house.

Ali, who was ten years old at that time and Zaid, the freed slave of the Holy Prophet^{saw}, were both members of his family. They also believed in him, the moment he announced his mission.

Hadhrat Abu Bakr^{ra}, who became Khalifah after the death of the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was a close friend of the Holy Prophet^{saw}. He lived in the same part of the town in which Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} and the Holy Prophet^{saw} lived. He, too, accepted the claim of the Holy Prophet^{saw} without any hesitation.

Among other earliest converts was Zubair. He was the son of Hadhrat Khadijah’s brother ‘Awfaam and the Holy Prophet’s aunt Safiyah and was fifteen years old.

This small group of early believers resolved that they would help the Holy Prophet^{saw} in preaching Islam. As a result Islam began to spread slowly and steadily in Makkah.

THE FAITHFUL PERSECUTED

When the Quraish observed that in spite of their strong opposition, Islam was spreading fast, they became furious and started a cruel campaign to stop the message of Islam. It was a difficult period for the Muslims, however they remained steadfast. They were confident of Allah's help and were convinced that this period of trial would end soon and that Islam would triumph in the end. God repeatedly consoled the Holy Prophet^{saw} through revelation, which enhanced the faith of every Muslim.

The slaves were possibly the worst affected group. Their masters used to inflict unbearable torments upon them in vain attempt to force them to renounce Islam. Here are some examples.

Bilaal^{ra} was a slave, who had accepted Islam. His master Umayyah bin Khalf used to lead him out of the town and make him lie down on his bare back, exposed to the blazing heat of the sun. Enormous stones were then heaped on his chest. Sometimes he was dragged through the stony streets of Makkah. Umayyah would then tell him to give up his religion and sing praise of the Makkan gods, Laat and 'Uzzaa instead.

In spite of all this torture, Umayyah could not force Bilaal^{ra} to renounce Islam. He would say, ‘Ahad! Ahad!’ Ahad means one. Thus Hadhrat Bilaal^{ra} would go on declaring that God is one.

‘Ammaar^{ra} was another slave. He was often beaten up cruelly and asked to renounce Islam. His father Yaasir^{ra} and his mother Samiyyah^{ra} were tortured too. On one such occasion the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, happened to pass by. He was very sad to see them suffering and said, “Family of Yaasir! Bear up with patience, as your final resort is paradise.”

Soon after Hadhrat Yaasir^{ra} died because of the wounds and sometime later Abu Jahl murdered his wife Hadhrat Samiyyah^{ra} with a spear.

Zinnirah^{ra} was a female slave. Abu Jahl beat her so cruelly that she lost her eyesight.

Other slaves were mishandled in similar ways.

The Holy Prophet^{saw}, Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} and other Muslims were naturally very sad to see their fellow Muslims tortured.

The free citizens who accepted Islam were not less cruelly treated. Their elders and chiefs tormented them in different ways.

Hadhrat Khadijah’s nephew, Zubair^{ra} bin ‘Awqaam, a brave young man, who later became a great Muslim General, was often wrapped up in a mat by his uncle. Smoke was then passed through the mat in order to

torture him by suffocation. He endured the torture patiently and continued to affirm that, having recognised the truth, he would not denounce it.

The Holy Prophet^{saw} was not spared either. The Quraish incited the mischievous people among them to molest the Holy Prophet^{saw} in every possible way. Sometimes when he went out in the street, his opponents used to hurl abuse at him and rubbish was thrown at him.

His neighbours threw stones into his house, scattered thorns outside his door and put foul smelling substances inside the walls of his dwelling.

In spite of all this Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} and the Holy Prophet^{saw} remained very patient.

On one occasion when he was engaged in Prayer near the Ka‘bah, Uqbah bin Abi Mu‘eet, a bitter enemy of Islam, came and winding a piece of cloth around the neck of the Holy Prophet tightened it so hard that it was difficult for the Holy Prophet to breathe. When Hadhrat Abu Bakr^{ra} came to know of this, he rushed to the spot and rescued him saying; ‘Would you kill a person who says that Allah is his Lord?’

Hadhrat Khadijah’s family showed great bravery and nobility in supporting the Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. Hadhrat Khadijah’s son, Haarith^{ra} by her first husband

Abu Haallah, gave his life in defending the Holy Prophet.

It is related that when the Holy Prophet^{saw} was commanded by Allah to preach openly, he went to the Ka'bah and addressing the people present there said, "Declare: 'There is none worthy of worship except Allah' and you will be successful."

The Quraish who were present there were much offended and rose to attack the Holy Prophet^{saw}. When Haarith^{ra} came to know of this, he rushed to the place in order to protect the Holy Prophet^{saw}, and fought bravely with the attackers. Someone, from among the Quraish, drew his sword and killed Haarith^{ra} on the spot. He was thus martyred for the sake of Islam.

Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} was naturally very grieved at the death of her son but she resigned herself to the Will of God.

The lives of the Muslims in Makkah were becoming more and more difficult day by day. The situation was rapidly deteriorating. The Holy Prophet^{saw} advised the community to migrate to Abyssinia. The first batch of these immigrants included, among others, Zubair^{ra} bin 'Awfaam, Hadhrat 'Uthmaan^{ra} and his wife Hadhrat Ruqayyah^{ra}. Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} was very sad to see her daughter; son-in-law and her nephew leave Makkah in order to take refuge elsewhere.

One can imagine the distress which persecution had caused to the noble wife of the Holy Prophet, Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}. She was grieved to see the cruel treatment of the people of Makkah for the Holy Prophet^{saw} and his followers. In spite of all this she remained very patient, comforted her husband and her family as well as other believers who were going through this difficult period.

Sometimes the Holy Prophet^{saw} would come home very sad and disappointed at the rejection of his claim by the people of Makkah. Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} would listen to him and try to cheer him up by reassuring him and supporting him.

She was an extremely intelligent woman. She had strong faith in Allah's help and was convinced that eventually the people would accept the message of Islam.

THE BOYCOTT

The leaders of the Quraish tribe conducted a meeting in which they agreed upon a plan. They decided that in order to stop further spread of Islam, every tribe should join in the campaign against the Holy Prophet^{saw} and his followers. In addition, elders of each tribe should force such of its members, who had embraced Islam, to renounce it. They thought that by this device Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, would be deserted by his followers and being left alone, would not be able to carry on his mission. Moreover by adopting this method there would be no chance of an inter-tribe enmity as the converts will be dealt with within each tribe.

This plan was put into practice accordingly. The result was that the individual Muslims were exposed to all manners of persecution at the hands of their fellow tribesmen. The senior members of their own family treated many such Muslims cruelly.

Abu Taalib came to know of this plan. In order to save the Holy Prophet^{saw} from any mal-treatment, he called upon Banu Haashim and Banu Muttalib clans of the Quraish tribe and persuaded them to resolve that they would safeguard Muhammad^{saw} in every way.

All agreed with the exception of Abu Lahab, who was a bitter enemy of Islam and was determined to stop its message.

The Holy Prophet^{saw} was thus protected to a large degree by the guarantee of Banu Haashim and Banu Muttalib.

The hostile clans of the Quraish tribe knew that they could not harm the Holy Prophet^{saw} as long as he enjoyed the protection of Banu Haashim and Banu Muttalib. As they failed to achieve their purpose, they were frustrated. They resolved that a complete boycott of Muhammad^{saw} and his followers should be enforced. They included Banu Haashim and Banu Muttalib clans in the ban as they had provided a guarantee of protection to the Holy Prophet^{saw}.

An agreement was written. The chiefs of Quraish and Banu Kanaanah tribes put their signatures to it and it was hung on one of the walls of the Ka'bah. According to the agreement any contact with the Muslims and those who sided with them was totally forbidden. No provisions were sold to them. The ban was enforced rigorously.

Moreover inter-marriages between Banu Haashim and Banu Muttalib with the rest of the Quraish tribes were prohibited. The Makkans said that they would lift the ban only when those two clans denounce the Holy Prophet and hand him over to them.

In pursuance of this agreement, the Holy Prophet^{saw} along with a small band of Muslims together with the people of Banu Haashim and Banu Muttalib, with the exception of Abu Lahab and his family, were compelled to retire to a narrow valley called Shi'b Abi Taalib. This was a small enclosure that belonged to Abu Taalib. The supply of food and all other necessities of life were cut off.

The boycott imposed terrible sufferings upon the besieged, particularly the women, children and the old people. Even when the foreign merchants came to Makkah with their commodities, Quraish would not allow them to sell anything to the besieged. The cries of hungry children were audible outside. Many a time these people were forced to feed themselves on the leaves of thorny bushes, which were growing in the valley.

Many hearts were moved at the sight of such hardships and they tried to supply food to their relatives in spite of the threats. Sometimes they succeeded but most often they failed miserably.

It is related that once Hakeem bin Hizaam, grandson of Khuwailid, carried some provisions to deliver to his aunt Khadijah^{ra}, but he was spotted by Abu Jahl, who blocked his way. There was a brief scuffle but Abu Jahl did not allow him to go further so Hakeem returned heavy hearted.

The blockade went on for about three years. As a result the health of Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} and many other notables deteriorated.

One day the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said to his uncle Abu Taalib that God had revealed to him that the document written by the Quraish leaders against them had been eaten into by worms. He told him that all writing except the name of Allah had been badly damaged.

Abu Taalib went to the Ka'bah and addressed the people belonging to the Quraish tribe who happened to be there and said to them, "How long would you continue to conform to the conditions of your brutal agreement. My nephew had told me that God had destroyed the whole of the document except His own name. Let us examine the document and find out whether my nephew is right. Someone brought the document and they found that with the exception of the name of God with which it began, the worms had damaged the rest of the writing.

Observing this, five chiefs of the Quraish tribe, namely Hishaam bin 'Amr, Zaheer bin Abu Umayyah, Mut'am bin 'Adi, Abul Bakhtaari and Zam'ah bin Aswad, felt that this agreement should be terminated. They went to other Quraish chiefs. One of these five said to them, "Do you consider it right that you should pass your days in comfort while your brethren are

forced to live in misery and distress. This pact is cruel so it should be done away with.”

All of them agreed to put an end to the boycott. Abu Jahl, however, protested. He said, “This pact will continue and no one can terminate it.”

Addressing Abu Jahl, one of them said, “This agreement is not binding any more. Even when it was written, we did not agree to it.”

While this heated discussion was going on, Mut‘am bin ‘Adi seized the document and tore it to pieces. Thereafter he, along with other chiefs, proceeded to the Shi‘b Abi Taalib with drawn swords and told the besieged that the boycott was over and that they could return to their homes.

THE YEAR OF GRIEF

For about three years the Holy Prophet^{saw} along with other Muslims, and the people belonging to Banu Haashim and Banu Muttalib remained in Shi'b Abi Taalib in a pitiful condition. When the boycott was over, everyone among them went back to his dwelling to live a normal life, however the health of Abu Taalib as well as of Khadijah^{ra} was failing.

Shortly after their return from the Shi'b, the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, suffered two grievous bereavements. His uncle Abu Taalib and his beloved and faithful wife Hadhrat Sayyedah Khadijah^{ra}, both passed away, one after the other.

Innaa Lillaahi Wa Innaa ilaihi Raaji'oon
(We belong to Allah and to Him shall we return.)

There can be no doubt that their ill health was caused by the sufferings during their prolonged confinement in the Shi'b.

Abu Taalib was more than eighty years old when he died. He was like a father to the Holy Prophet^{saw}. The Holy Prophet^{saw} was very fond of him and he, too,



Tomb of Hadhrat Khadijah

loved his nephew deeply. During the days of his illness, the Holy Prophet^{saw} visited him regularly. So long as he was alive, the Holy Prophet^{saw} had no need to fear violence or attack from the opponents. After his death there was no such human hand to protect him from his enemies.

Abu Taalib was a very good leader and the whole of Makkah mourned his death.

Hadhrat Khadijah, may Allah be pleased with her, was the solace and comfort to the Holy Prophet^{saw} for a quarter of a century. When none believed in his mission and the people of Makkah employed every means to stop his message, Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} remained his best companion and helper. She was always ready to do everything possible for the service of Islam. Her death was, thus, a severe blow to the Holy Prophet^{saw}.

She died at the age of sixty-five in the tenth year of Prophet-hood (619 AD) in the month of Ramadhaan and was buried in the Makkan cemetery of Hajoon. Hajoon is the name of a mountain, which lies towards the north of Makkah. All Muslims were present at her funeral. The Holy Prophet, himself, placed the body into the grave. As the body was lowered into the grave every eye was wet with tears. It is related that the Holy Prophet, too, burst into sobs. No funeral service

was held because the funeral service was not established in Islam up to that time.

Throughout the rest of his life, the Holy Prophet^{saw} cherished her memory tenderly and often recalled her loyalty and devotion to him.

The tenth year of Hijra is known as the Year of Grief in the history of Islam because both Abu Taalib and Khadijah^{ra} passed away during that year.

Centuries after the death of Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}, in 950 A.H a beautiful wooden dome was built on the grave, which, according to historical records, was repaired in 1298 A.H. It is believed that 'Abdul Muttalib and Abu Taalib were also buried in the same cemetery. Nowadays, however, there is no sign of any tomb or gravestone on the graves. It is therefore difficult to locate their graves.

DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY PROPHET

From among the daughters of Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} and the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}, Zainab^{ra} was the eldest. Ruqayyah^{ra} was three years younger than her and Umme Kulsoom^{ra} was a year younger than Ruqayyah^{ra}.

Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} took great care in their upbringing. Love of Islam was inculcated in their hearts. They also inherited qualities like generosity, sympathy for the poor and faithfulness to their husbands, from their revered mother.

ZAINAB

Zainab^{ra} was born five years after the marriage, and ten years before the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was appointed as the Messenger of Allah. When Zainab^{ra} reached a marriageable age, the Holy Prophet^{saw} and Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}, gave her hand in marriage to a young man called Abul‘Aas.

Abul‘Aas was the son of Hadhrat Khadijah’s sister Haallah. He was a successful trader and was known for his honesty in the Arab society. Khadijah^{ra} was

very fond of him and looked upon him as her own son.

Zainab^{ra} had accepted Islam but Haallah and her son Abul‘Aas had not become Muslims at that early stage.

The people of Makkah were against this marriage. They tried their utmost to persuade Abul‘Aas to divorce his wife and choose any of their daughters instead. In reply Abul‘Aas said, “I will not bear separation from my wife. Neither do I desire any other woman from amongst your daughters.”

The Holy Prophet^{saw} and Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} appreciated his faithfulness to Zainab^{ra}. The attachment between Abul‘Aas and his wife was mutual, for when the family of the Holy Prophet^{saw} migrated to Madinah; Zainab^{ra} remained behind at Makkah with her husband. Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} died in the year 619 AD while her daughter Zainab^{ra} was still living in Makkah.

It so happened that Abul‘Aas took part in the Battle of Badr and fought against the Muslims. The Makkans were defeated and Abul‘Aas was taken prisoner along with many other Makkans. The Quraish sent men with money and other valuables to ransom their prisoners. Hadhrat Zainab^{ra} also sent some articles by way of ransom for her husband. These articles included a necklace, which Hadhrat Khadijah, may Allah be

pleased with her, had given to her daughter as part of her dowry.

The Holy Prophet saw this necklace. It reminded him of his beloved wife Khadijah^{ra} and he was overwhelmed with emotion. He said to his Companions, "I have no authority to give you any decision in this matter, however I know that this necklace is cherished by Zainab as a last memento of her deceased mother. I therefore suggest that she should not be deprived of it and it may be returned to her." The Companions agreed readily. As a condition of his freedom, however, the Holy Prophet^{saw} said to Abul'Aas to send Zainab^{ra} to Madinah as soon as possible. Abul'Aas promised to do so.

Soon after he returned to Makkah, Abul'Aas sent his wife Zainab^{ra} to Madinah, along with his brother Kinaanah. She was pregnant at that time. When the Quraish came to know about her departure from Makkah, they sent some people in pursuit, determined to stop her going to her father. One of them was called Habbaar bin Aswad. Habbaar saw her mounted on a camel. He stepped forward and struck the camel with a spear. The camel went out of control. Zainab^{ra} fell down. She was frightened. The shock was so great that she had a miscarriage.

Kinaanah managed to make the camel sit down. He took his bow and arrows and was ready to shoot the attackers when Abu Sufyaan appeared on the scene.

He said to Kinaanah, “Don’t start shooting. Listen! We have suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Muhammad at Badr recently. If Zainab goes to her father now, it would be regarded as weakness of the people of Makkah. She should return to Makkah now. Let the dust settle. Then she could go secretly to her father in Madinah.” Kinaanah agreed to this.

Accordingly Zainab^{ra} went back to Makkah and after a few days she managed to get out of Makkah secretly and Kinaanah handed her over to Zaid^{ra}, whom the Holy Prophet^{saw} had sent to bring her. They reached Madinah safely.

Three or four years later Abul‘Aas was made prisoner again, and brought to Madinah. He was returning with a Makkan caravan from Syria. The people of Makkah were hostile to Muslims. Even their caravans used to incite the people to attack Muslims.

When the caravan reached at a place called Ees, a small party of the Muslims, patrolling the area, overpowered it and took the people of the caravan to Madinah. During the night Abul‘Aas approached his wife and asked her guarantee of protection.

In the morning when Muslims assembled in the mosque for Fajr Prayer, Zainab^{ra} called out aloud from her apartment and announced that she had given guarantee of protection to her husband Abul‘Aas.

After the Prayer, the Holy Prophet^{saw} addressed the worshippers and said, “You have heard what my daughter had said. I call Allah to witness that I knew nothing of her guarantee until this moment. I suggest that we should honour her pledge”. They all agreed. Abul‘Aas was set free and all his property was returned.

After reaching Makkah, he returned all the articles and valuables; people had deposited with him because of his honesty, and cleared all his debts. After managing all his affairs at Makkah, Abul‘Aas, may Allah be pleased with him, announced his acceptance of Islam and shortly afterwards returned to Madinah and joined his wife. His domestic life, however, did not last very long. Hadhrat Zainab, may God be pleased with her, died in 8 AH from the illness caused by the enemy’s attack during her journey from Makkah to Madinah. She was about thirty years old at the time of her death.

RUQAYYAH and UMME KULSOOM

Both Ruqayyah^{ra} and Umm-e-Kulsoom^{ra} were engaged to ‘Utbah and ‘Utaibah respectively. They were the sons of Abu Lahb, an uncle of the Holy Prophet^{saw}.

When God chose the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} for conveying His message to the whole of mankind, the

people of Makkah, apart from a few, turned against him. Abu Lahb and his wife Umm-e-Jameel opposed him tooth and nail. They did not want their sons to marry the daughters of the Holy Prophet^{saw}. The people of Makkah also approached Abu Lahb and his wife and demanded that ‘Utbah and ‘Utaibah should leave their fiancées. The engagements were thus broken. The Holy Prophet^{saw} and his wife Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} then looked for some other matches for their daughters. Hadhrat ‘Uthmaan^{ra} was a young man at that time. The Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, gave her daughter Ruqayyah^{ra} in marriage to him. They lived happily but in 2 AH, Hadhrat Ruqayyah^{ra} died. A year after her death, the Holy Prophet^{saw} gave his third daughter Umm-e-Kulsoom^{ra}, in marriage to Hadhrat ‘Uthmaan^{ra}. She too died in 9 AH when she was only twenty-eight years old.

FAATIMAH

Faatimah^{ra} was the youngest of the daughters of the Holy Prophet^{saw}. She was only fifteen when her mother Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} died. About three years after the migration from Makkah to Madinah the Holy Prophet^{saw} gave her hand to Hadhrat ‘Ali^{ra} in marriage. The Holy Prophet^{saw} performed the Nikah

ceremony and the Haq Mahr was fixed at four hundred dirhams.

Hadhrat 'Ali^{ra} and Hadhrat Faatimah^{ra} had five children. Three of them were boys, Hasan^{ra}, Husain^{ra} and Mohsin^{ra} and two were daughters, Zainab^{ra} and Umme Kulsoom^{ra}. Mohsin^{ra} died when he was quite young.

All those who claim to be the progeny of the Holy Prophet^{saw} are the descendants of Hasan^{ra} and Husain^{ra}.

Hadhrat Faatimah, may Allah be pleased with her, died six months after the demise of the Holy Prophet^{saw}. She was approximately thirty years old at the time of her death.

THE BEST WOMAN OF HER TIME

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, married several women after the death of Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}, but never forgot his first wife. Throughout the rest of his life, he cherished her memory tenderly and often recalled her loyalty, kindness and devotion to him. He used to say that she was the best woman of her time. Hadhrat Ali^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, “The best woman of her time was Mary, daughter of Imraan, and the best woman of her time is Khadijah, daughter of Khuwailid.”

According to another Hadith narrated by Hadhrat Anas^{ra}, the Holy Prophet^{saw} said, “It is enough for you to follow in the footsteps of Mary, daughter of Imraan; Khadijah, daughter of Khuwailid; Faatimah, daughter of Muhammad; and Aasiyah, wife of Pharaoh, from among all the women of the world”.

Once the Holy Prophet^{saw} was in the house of Hadhrat ‘Aaishah^{ra} when Haallah, sister of Khadijah^{ra}, came to visit him and sought permission to enter the house. The Holy Prophet^{saw} was overcome with emotion. He said, “This must be Haallah. Her voice sounds like Khadijah^{ra}”. He hurried to the door and welcomed her.

The Holy Prophet^{saw} always had great regard for the relatives and friends of Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}. Whenever any of Khadijah's friends or relatives visited him, he would stand up to receive the visitor.

The Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, always remembered the generosity of his wife Khadijah^{ra}, so whenever he slaughtered an animal, he would send a portion of the meat to the friends of Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}. He also told his wives never to overlook them on such occasions.

Hadhrat Aaishah^{ra} relates that she did not envy any of the wives of the Holy Prophet so much as she envied Khadijah^{ra}, though she had never seen her.

The Holy Prophet^{saw} used to praise Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} most often and stressed her virtues and the sacrifices that she had made for the cause of Islam. On one such occasion Hadhrat Aaishah^{ra} could no longer control herself. She said to the Holy Prophet, "O, Messenger of Allah! Why do you talk so much of the old lady? God has given you better, younger and more attractive wives." The Holy Prophet^{saw} was overcome by emotion when he heard this. He said, "Oh, No, Aaishah! You have no idea how good Khadijah was to me. She believed in the truthfulness of my claim when others rejected me. She became my best companion and helper when others forsook me. Moreover God has blessed me with children from her." All his

children, except one boy Ibraaheem^{ra}, were from Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}.

Hadhrat Aaishah^{ra} says that she was very sorry for her remarks about Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} and resolved that in future she would not talk about Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} in such manner so as to displease the Holy Prophet^{saw}.

The Holy Prophet^{saw} remembered Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} even on the occasion of Fall of Makkah, though about ten years had passed on her death. It is related that he directed his Companions to pitch his tent at a place, outside the cemetery of Hajoon, where he could be close to the final resting place of Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}.

GLAD TIDINGS OF A HOUSE IN HEAVEN

Hadhrat Khadijah, may Allah be pleased with her, was given the glad tidings that she will have a palace made of pearls in paradise, with no noise or household cares to trouble her.

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} related that the angel Jibra'eel came to the Holy Prophet^{saw} and said, "Messenger of Allah! Here comes Khadijah who is bringing a utensil in which there is some food and condiments. When she sees you, give her the salutation of peace from her Lord and salutation of peace from me and give her good news that she will have a house made of shining pearls in paradise, wherein there would be no clamour and no disturbance."

Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}, herself, related that one-day she went in search of the Holy Prophet^{saw} towards the hills outside the city of Makkah. She was carrying some food for the Holy Prophet^{saw}. A stranger approached her and asked questions about the Holy Prophet^{saw}. She became worried and thought that the person might do some harm to the Holy Prophet. Later she related the whole incident to the Holy Prophet^{saw}. The Holy Prophet^{saw} said, "The person you met was Jibra'eel. He had directed me to convey to you

salutation of peace from God and the good news that God will bless you with a house, made of pearls, in heaven in which there would be no noise and no cause for fatigue.”



Hilly area around Makkah

After receiving the message of salutations of peace from Allah, the Almighty and from Hadhrat Jibraa'eel through the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}, Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra} commented, "Allah, Himself, is a Source of Peace. As regards Jibraa'eel, may peace be upon Jibraa'eel and may peace and blessings be upon you O, Prophet."

Hadhrat Khadijah^{ra}, Mother of the Faithful, may God be pleased with her, is the ideal of womanhood in Islam. She devoted her entire life to the service of God, as did the Holy Prophet^{saw}. May Allah shower His choicest blessings on both of them.
All praise belongs to Allah, Lord of the worlds.

GLOSSARY

A

ABDICATE: to give up.

ARTISAN: Skilled workman in a trade. Handicraft Person.

B

BEREAVED: Deprived of a close relation or friend through their death.

BESIEGED: Those who were surrounded and harassed.

BIN: An Arabic word, which means ‘son of’.

BLOCKADE: To prevent people or goods entering or leaving a Place.

BOOTY: goods seized in wars.

C

CHERISH: To keep in one's mind.

CLOT: Thick lump formed from liquid.

COMMODITIES: Articles of trade.

COMPASSIONATE: Sympathetic.

COMPLEXION: Colour of skin.

CONDIMENTS: Substances such as salt or pepper that is used to add flavour to food.

D

DETERIORATE: To become worse.

DOWRY: Property or money brought by a bride to her husband at the time of their marriage..

DROUGHT: Dry weather.

E

EXPEDITION; Journey undertaken with a particular Purpose.

G

GRACIOUS: Kind.

GRIEF STRICKEN: Overcome by deep sorrow.

H

HADITH: Saying of the Holy Prophet.

HAQ MAHR: Settlement by the husband on his wife in marriage

HERMIT: A person living in solitude.

I

ILLICIT: Unlawful.

INCUMBANT: Compulsory.

L

LAAT: Name of an idol.

M

MEMENTO: An object kept as a reminder or souvenir
of a person.

MERCHANDISE: Goods of a merchant.

MISCARRIAGE: To lose the baby in womb.

MONASTRY: Abbey. A house for monks.

MONK: A male inhabitant of monastery vowed not to marry.

MONOTHEISTIC: A religion, which declares that there is
only one God..

N

NIKAH: Pronouncement of marriage.

P

PLUNDER: Robbery.

PROVISIONS: Supplies of food.

R

RANSOM: Money paid for the release of a prisoner.

RENOUNCE: To give up.

S

SALUTATION: A greeting.

SCRIPTURES: Sacred writings.

SOLACE: Consolation

SOLEMNISED: To perform the ceremony of marriage.

STATURE: Height.

SOLITUDE: Lonely place.

T

TRANSACTION: Business deal.

TYRANNY: Cruelty.

U

UMMUL MO'MINEEN: Mother of the Faithful.

'UZZAA: An idol.

V

VIRTUOUS: Having high moral standards.

W

WALI: Legal guardian.

WALEEMAH: A feast arranged by the bridegroom
after the consummation of marriage.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND BEGINNERS:

AN ELEMENTARY STUDY OF ISLAM

By: Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad.

The book is a brief introduction to the Five Fundamental Articles of the Islamic faith i.e. Unity of God, Angels, Prophets, Holy Books, and Life after Death. Moreover the readers are made aware of the similarities between Islam and other religions. The book explains that Islam, being a universal religion, unites people of all nations under its banner. The book is specifically written for students and beginners who want to have an elementary knowledge about Islam.

ABC FOR MUSLIM CHILDREN

By: Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry

This well illustrated book explains various religious words and terms, which a Muslim ought to know. It is an ideal book for beginners and young children.

AHMAD AND SARAH

By: Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry.

The aim of this publication is to introduce a few Islamic terms and phrases used by Muslims in their daily lives. An explanation of these terms is given at the end in Glossary. The booklet is suitable for children of 5 to 7 years.

AHMAD AND SARAH GO TO MOSQUE

By: Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry

The book is specifically written for children and beginners who wish to know about the manner and significance of Islamic Prayer, Wudhu, Adhaan and the etiquette of a mosque. It is written in a story form so as to arouse curiosity in children and to maintain their interest. The style, the language and the illustrations are all geared towards this goal.

BILAL

By: Children's Book Committee

The booklet contains the life story of Hadhrat Bilal, the first Muedhin in Islam, may Allah be pleased with him. He was a slave who was subjected to persecution for accepting Islam. He bore all atrocities with patience and remained steadfast and ultimately rose to a position of honour amongst Muslims. The book also describes his love for the Holy Prophet and his devotion to Islam

HADHRAT SAYYEDAH KHADIJAH

By: Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry

This is the life history of Hadhrat Sayyedah Khadijah, the Pure, the Great, Mother of the Faithful, the first wife of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, who lived with him for about twenty five years, may Allah be pleased with her. It tells the reader the high moral values she had, even before Islam, the qualities, which made her not only suitable wife for the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, but also made her a most Capable Advisor and a great solace to him at the time when the whole of Makkah turned against him and the opponents tried to wipe off Islam from the face of the earth.

It also gives an account of the sacrifices made by this woman of remarkable character, an ideal of womanhood in Islam, in the cause of Allah.

HADHRAT UMAR FAROOQ

By: Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry

The book contains a life history of Hadhrat Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, the system of his government, the reforms carried out in different fields and the battles Muslims had to fight during his Khilafat. It also describes his role in the battles, which the Holy Prophet had to fight in defence of Islam, the treaties he made with Makkans and others, his love for Allah, the Holy Quran, the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, Hadhrat Abu Bakr and the Muslim Community as a whole.

MUSLIM FESTIVALS AND CEREMONIES

By: Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry

The book contains historical background of celebrations and the philosophy underlying the religious festivals in vogue in the Muslim world today. Moreover the rites performed at the birth, marriage and death of a Muslim are described. It is a useful source for school students and teachers.

MY BOOK ABOUT GOD

By: Children's Book Committee

The concept of God in Islam is explained in a simple manner in this booklet. Why should we believe in God and how can one be certain about His existence? What does He look like? How can we please Him? Why do we address Him as He and not She? Why are innocent people killed in natural disasters? The booklet answers these and many more questions, set in an everyday home environment where children ask questions freely to their elders.

QA'EDAH YASSAR-NAL QURAN

By: Pir Manzoor Muhammad.

The Primer is essential for learning the Arabic text of the Holy Quran with correct pronunciation in easy, gradual steps. It contains instructions for students as well as teachers, in English language.

SELECTED SAYINGS OF THE HOLY PROPHET

Compiled by Syed Mahmood Ahmad Nasir

A short collection of 50 Sayings of the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, selected specially for children. The book contains the original Arabic text with translation and a few coloured illustrations.

STORIES FROM EARLY ISLAM

By: Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry

It is a collection of true stories about the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and his Companions, may Allah be pleased with them. The book gives an insight to the lives led by early Muslims and shows how a firm belief in God Almighty helped them overcome their enemies. There are questions at the end of each chapter to test the reader.

THE HOLY PROPHET'S KINDNESS TO CHILDREN

By: Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry

The booklet contains teachings of Islam and Sayings of the Holy Prophet regarding kindness to children. It is written in simple language and is set in a classroom situation.

THE TRUE STORY OF JESUS

By: Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry

The book contains the account of the life of Jesus, may peace be upon him. The topics mentioned are 'Birth of Jesus and his early life', 'Jesus as a Prophet', 'Teachings of Jesus', 'Jesus on the cross and his escape to Kashmir', and 'Tomb of Jesus'. The main sources used in the book are the Bible and the Quran. There are questions at the end of each chapter to test the reader.

THE WORDS OF WISDOM AND PURIFICATION

By: Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry

The book contains the Quranic verses and their translation about the Islamic beliefs in Allah, Angels, Revealed Books, Prophets, Taqdeer (predestination) and Life Hereafter. It tells the reader how God planned the whole universe and created human beings and everything else that is needed for their sustenance. It explains how we should glorify Allah including the prayers mentioned in the Quran. This well illustrated book also tells us about the actions that Allah likes and the actions He does not like. The book is an excellent source of Quaranic knowledge essential to every Muslim.